ble. The delay in Gujarat has been exacerbated by the recent disturbances caused due to agitation on reservation issue which has affected not only the passport Office but also the work of the police authorities. Passport authorities in Gujarat as elsewhere are under instructions, however, to issue passports within 5 working days after the receipt of the 2 police reports mentioned above. Moreover, in unforeseen and urgent cases like death of a close relative abroad, participation in conference, delegations, need for urgent medical treatment abroad, need to join work or study abroad etc. the Passport Officers have been given powers to issue short-term validity passports without police verifications. Measures to obtain verification reports from the police authorities expeditiously are under consideration of the Government.

Attempts by Khalistani Protogonists to destroy Air-India Aircraft

313. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Khalistan terrorists made three attempts within 48 hours a blowing off of aircrafts either owned by Air India, or aircraft carrying Indian passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): Circumstances leading to the crash of Air India flight 182 on 23rd June, 1985 and also the explosion in a cargo container of a Canadian aircraft at Narita airport on the same date are under investigation by competent authorities. Government is fully alive to the various possibilities behind these events and their implications.

No third attempt has come to the notice of the Government, though there was a bomb alert on Air India flight 101 on June 24 when it was due to take off from London to New York. The flight was permitted to proceed after a thorough search of the aircraft.

High level Panel to review the rural schemes

314. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-level panel has been set up by the Planning Commission to review the rural schemes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the panel has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) how the recommendations are going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Planning Commission have set up a high level committee to review the expecting administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Strengthening of the monitoring units in the States

315. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to strengthen the monitoring units in the State Planning Bodies;

(b) if so, the guidelines sent to different State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the programmes proposed to be implemented for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to continue the scheme on 'Strengthening the Planning Machinery in States' which covers the strengthening of monitoring units in the State Planning Bodies, in the Seventh Plan also.

(b) The guidelines on the scheme for strengthening of the monitoring units in the State planning bodies were sent to the State Governments in August, 1972. The scheme was in operation during the Fifth and Sixth Plans and the Planning Commission propose to continue the scheme during the Seventh Plan also.

(c) There is only one Plan scheme for this purpose, namely 'Strengthening the Planning Machinery in States' referred in (a) above which, inter-alia, covers the monitoring units in the State planning bodies.

Development of Tourism in Meghalaya

316. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the programmes of the Central Government for development of tourist spots in Meghalaya during the year 1985-86;

(b) the number of foreign tourists who visited Meghalaya during the year 1984-85 and from April to June, 1985; and

(c) whether there is any scheme proposed by Government to attract foreign tourists to visit Meghalaya in addition to the efforts being made by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Department has already sanctioned way-side amenities at Nongpoh. The Umiam Lake Watersports infrastructure scheme and a proposal for a Cafeteria at Cherapunji are also under consideration.

(b) and (c) Statistics of foreign tourists visiting different States are not available. Besides from 1962 restrictions on the entry of foreigners to Meghalaya have been in force and thus there was only minimal number of foreign tourists visiting Meghalaya. As per the Foreign Tourist Survey in 1982-83, 0.2 per cent of the total foreign tourists visiting India, spent at least one night in Meghalaya. As a first step Government threw open Shillong to groups of foreigners in 1984. The newly introduced Vayudoot flight from Calcutta to Shillong is also expected to step up tourism traffic to Shillong|Government is also examining if restrictions on movement of foreigners in Meghalaya can be further relaxed by opening up of more places.

Improvement of Shillong Airport

317. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for the improvement of the Shillong airport suitable for the operation of the Boeing flights of the Indian Airlines;

(b) whether Government are aware that there have been great public demand for Indian Airline flights between Calcutta-Shiling-Dimapur and Mohanbari; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines have not received any demand for operating services between Calcutta, Shillong, Dimapur and Mohanbari, but have received representations to operate a Boeing service on the Calcutta-Shillong-Calcutta sector. This